NEW YORK UNIVERSITY RADIO STATIONS

There are two radio stations now serving both campuses of New York University, WNYU, the student operated radio station at the University Heights Campus, and WCAG at Washington Square. These two stations operating as a network serve three dormitories at the Heights and one dormitory at Washington Square, other dormitories are to be added in the future.

The stations broadcast to the dormitories through the medium of carrier current transmission. Carrier current is a means of broadcasting on a closed circuit basis to a building by radiating the signal on the a.c. power lines. A transmitter is placed in each dormitory and is fed the radio programs by telephone radio lines from the studio.

Studios at the Heights are located in the basement of MacCracken Hall. At the Square studios are in East Building and are under the control of the Communications Arts Group. Both stations are presently in the process of trying to relocate in more spacious quarters.

Programming on the NYU radio network is varied and of interest to many segments of the student population. The stations strive to provide types of programs which are not available on New York radio and which will attract listeners to specific programs rather than try to be all things to all people.

To this end the stations broadcast the NYU basketball games both at home and away. Last season the station crew traveled as far as Chicago to broadcast the NYU-Northwestern basketball game. WNYU also broadcasts the Heights Alumni Dinner each year and other important University functions.

Plans are now being made to provide New York University with an FM radio outlet to New York City. This would make it possible for the programs of WNYU to be heard throughout the metropolitan area. Columbia and Fordham Universities presently operate such stations. The main problem blocking the immediate establishment of such a station is the problem of finding a frequency in the crowded band of the New York area. Plans are being made to try to take-over a frequency which is not being used at this time.

In addition funds must be found in order to purchase an FM transmitter and the related equipment. The initial cost of the equipment if purchased at retail would be approximately $25,000. Attempts are being made to secure a donation of this equipment from a commercial broadcaster.

To aid the student-operated stations the Alumni could provide assistance in three main areas: First, urge the administration to hasten the establishment of the FM station, Second, provide contacts and assistance in obtaining the necessary donations from commercial broadcasters, and Third, act as resource aids in the development of programs and in the placing of those graduates interested in entering broadcasting as a career.

November 30, 1964

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